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House nearly unanimous in vote to set safety standards for Mexican trucks

The Business Journal of Phoenix - 2:40 PM MST Tuesday, May 15, 2007 by [Mike Sunnucks](#) The Business Journal

The U.S. House of Representative approved a bill Tuesday to require that Mexican trucks meet American safety standards before they are given access to U.S. highways.

The move is aimed at a Bush administration pilot program to allow 100 Mexican trucks access to all U.S. highways. Current rules restrict Mexican trucks to border areas. Advocates say the additional truck traffic would help spur trade and commerce.

The bill was approved in a 411-to-3 vote Monday. Tempe Democratic Congressman Harry Mitchell, a bill co-sponsor, said safety needs to be a priority when crafting crossborder trucking agreements. Mitchell's office said 300,000 Mexican trucks cross into Arizona annually.

Congressman Jeff Flake was among the three no votes. The Mesa Republican often votes against new government regulations and restrictions on industry.

The state's six other congressional members voted for the measure, which had bipartisan backing. The measure's main sponsor was U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif. The Senate has yet to take action on the measure.

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